

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1106

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

USLO PEKING

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 8420

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR KN AS

SUBJ: AUSTRALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S CONVERSATIONS WITH NORTH KOREANS

SUMMARY: AUSTRALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER WILLESEE, BRIEFING JAPANESE ABOUT RECENT VISIT TO PYONGYANG, SAID NORTH KOREANS AGREED THAT REUNIFICATION OF PENINSULA UNREALISTIC UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, BY WAR OR ANY OTHER MEANS. DPKR WILL OPPOSE SIMULTANEOUS ENTRY INTO UN, PREFERRING TO SEEK MEMBERSHIP ALONE OR AS PART OF CONFEDERATION. DPRK WILL CONTINUE TO CONFRONT ROK IN UN, CONFIDENT OF VICTORY THIS YEAR OR NEXT. THOUGH MIFFED BY KIM IL-SUNG FAILURE TO SEE HIM, WILLESEE PLEASED WITH VISIT AND RELATIVELY RELAXED DISCUSSIONS WITH FONMIN HO TAM. END SUMMARY.

1. FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS OF AUSTRALIAN FONMIN WILLESEE'S VISIT TO PYONGYANG JUNE 12-15, AS DISCUSSED WITH FONMIN MIYAZAWA AND OTHER GOJ OFFICIALS. SOURCE WAS AUSTRALIAN CONFIDENTIAL

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EMBASSY POLITICAL OFFICER.

2. PROSPECTS FOR KOREAN PENINSULA -- WILLESEE TOLD FONMIN HO TAM, HIS PRINCIPAL INTERLOCUTOR, THAT IT NOT

REALISTIC TO EXPECT TWO KOREAS TO COME TOGETHER UNDER RULE OF SAME GOVERNMENT, GIVEN TIGHTLY ORGANIZED FORM OF GOVERNMENT AND IDOLIZATION OF KIM IL-SUNG IN NORTH. AUSTRALIA WOULD CONTINUE TO RECOGNIZE TWO INDEPENDENT GOVERNMENTS IN KOREA, WHATEVER THEY MIGHT BE CALLED, BECAUSE FACT OF THEIR EXISTENCE WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO IGNORE. WAR AS MEANS OF UNIFYING KOREA WOULD NOT BE WORTH COST, HE ADDED, IF DPRK ATTACKED SOUTH, US TROOPS WOULD BE INVOLVED AND US WOULD REACT STRONGLY AS EVIDENCED BY WASHINGTON'S HANDLING OF MAYAGUEZ INCIDENT.

2. HO ADMITTED THAT REUNIFICATION WAS UNREALISTIC UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, AS WAS WAR AS MEANS OF ACHIEVING REUNIFICATION. WORLD WAS TOO JITTERY AFTER CHANGES IN INDOCHINA, HO CONTINUED. "SAME THING WOULD NOT HAPPEN IN KOREA". EVEN IF UN COMMAND WITHDRAWN, DPRK WOULD NOT ATTACK SOUTH, HE ADDED.

3. IN ISSUES --WILLESEE GAVE HO HIS "OPINION AS FRIEND" THAT DPRK SHOULD JOIN UN TOGETHER WITH ROK. HO REPLIED THAT SIMULTANEOUS MEMBERSHIP WOULD PERPETUATE DIVISION OF KOREAN PENINSULA. DPRK WANTED TO ENTER UN ALONE OR AT LEAST AS MEMBER OF CONFEDERATION REPRESENTING ALL OF KOREA.

4. WILLESEE SAID THAT EVEN IF UN COMMAND WERE WITHDRAWN, NEITHER UN OR ANYONE ELSE COULD STOP ROK OPERATING UNDER BILATERAL DEFENSE AGREEMENT WITH US. AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT NOT AGAINST DISBANDING UNC BUT WANTED ACT ACCOMPANIED BY SAFEGUARDS FOR PEACE. HO REPLIED THAT DPRK WOULD CONTINUE TO CONFRONT ROK IN UN, CONFIDENT OF SUCCESS IF NOT THIS YEAR THEN NEXT.

5. LEADERSHIP -- WILLESEE SAID HE FOUND HO MUCH MORE RELAXED THAN ON PREVIOUS ENCOUNTER. HO MADE EFFORT TO BE PLEASANT BOTH IN OFFICIAL TALKS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES CONNECTED WITH VISIT. HE DELIVERED STANDARD LINE ON UNIFICATION AND UN MATTERS WITHOUT RANTING OR VITUPERATION. CONFIDENTIAL

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WILLESEE TRIED TO OBTAIN AUDIENCE WITH KIM IL-SUNG, BUT INSTEAD HAD TO SETTLE FOR BRIEF COURTESY CALL ON VICE PRESIDENT KANG YANG-UK. KANG WELCOMED WILLESEE BY QUOTING OLD KOREAN PROVERB TO EFFECT THAT IT BETTER TO SEE SOMEONE ONCE THAN HEAR ABOUT HIM A HUNDRED TIMES. MIFFED AT KIM IL-SUNG'S UNAVAILABILITY, WILLESEE AGREED, RETORTING THAT HE HAD HEARD OF CHAIRMAN KIM AT LEAST A HUNDRED TIMES BUT HAD YET TO SEE HIM ONCE. (AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY COMMENTS THAT MEETING WITH KIM PROBABLY FAILED TO COME OFF BECAUSE AUSTRALIANS STILL UNKNOWN QUANTITY, AND DPRK OFFICERS SIMPLY DID NOT KNOW HOW THEY WOULD REACT WITH CHAIRMAN.)

6. REACTION TO SEOUL STOP -- AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY POINTED OUT THAT PYONGYANG ORIGINALLY HESITATED ABOUT WILLESEE VISIT WHEN NORTH KOREANS REALIZED HE PLANNED TO STOP IN SEOUL LATER. AUSTRALIANS REPLIED THAT SEOUL WOULD REMAIN ON ITINERARY, AND THAT WILLESEE WOULD SKIP PYONGYANG THIS TIME IF NORTH KOREANS WOULD NOT WELCOME HIM. ANOTHER HIGH-LEVEL AUSTRALIAN MISSION TO THE AREA WOULD PROBABLY BE PLANNED IN A YEAR'S TIME AND VISIT MIGHT BE MADE THEN, ALTHOUGH SEOUL WOULD BE ON LATER ITINERARY AS WELL. AUSTRALIANS SET DEADLINE FOR REPLY AND DPRK BACKED DOWN SHORTLY THEREAFTER. WILLESEE TOLD HO TAM DURING VISIT THAT HE PLANNED TO INFORM ROK OF HIS TALKS IN PYONGYANG. HODGSON

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## Message Attributes

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